

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jacques Etkowicz on 2/9/10.

(Note the underlined section denotes the examiner's changes to claim 1.)

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

Claims 2-4 have been deleted and placed into independent form (Claim 1):

--Claim 1: An automatic handling and transportation device for printer housings comprising: a support, for support of the housings able to be positioned in alignment with a housing-bearing assembly and in proximity with it, and a grasping/holding device adapted to be displaced between i) a transferal position in which said grasping/holding device interacts with said housing installed on said housing-bearing assembly to grasp or free it and ii) a transportation position in which the housing held by the grasping/holding device is on the support;

a basic mobile unit associated with a first means of displacement arranged to displace said basic mobile unit on a first route; and at least one handling unit mounted on said basic mobile unit, said handling unit including said support, which is held in a jutting position on a second route, transverse to said first route and parallel to said

housing-bearing assembly mounted in a jutting position on a printing machine, and a second means of displacement arranged to displace said grasping/holding device on said second route in relation to the support,

wherein the basic mobile unit moves along guide means which extend on said first horizontal route along a stretch which includes a first transfer area in which said handling unit mounted on the basic mobile unit operates to exchange housings with said printing machine, and at least a second transfer area in which the support on the handling unit mounted on the basic mobile unit is able to be positioned in alignment with a housing support installed on a transportation unit or in a place of storage, said handling unit operating to exchange housings with said transportation unit or with said place; wherein a single handling unit is mounted on the basic mobile unit, and fitted with third means of displacement to move the handling unit in relation to the basic mobile unit on a third, vertical route, transverse to the first and second routes.--

Claims 5, 11, 12, 16, 20, 21, 25, 27, and 30 have been changed to depend from claim 1.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to claim 1 the prior art does not teach or render obvious the claimed combination, in particular an automatic handling and transportation device for printer housing comprising a basic mobile unit associated with a first means of displacement arranged to displace said basic mobile unit on a first route; and at least one handling

unit mounted on said basic mobile unit, said handling unit including said support, which is held in a jutting position on a second route, transverse to said first route and parallel to said housing-bearing assembly mounted in a jutting position on a printing machine, and a second means of displacement arranged to displace said grasping/holding device on said second route in relation to the support and a single handling unit is mounted on the basic mobile unit, and fitted with third means of displacement to move the handling unit in relation to the basic mobile unit on a third, vertical route, transverse to the first and second routes.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MATTHEW G. MARINI whose telephone number is (571)272-2676. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen can be reached on (571)-272-2258. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Matthew Marini

/Judy Nguyen/
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